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Time for Valley College students and faculty to start cleaning up on campus.

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Albert and Greg Pugliese share a bond that no one can touch or relate to.

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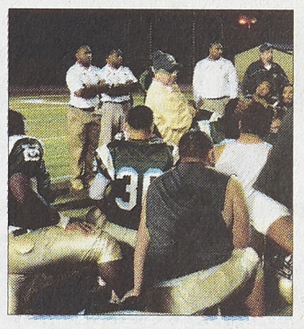

Why the Monarch football season is not a failure.

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MONARCHS LOSE HOMECOMING BY A FOOT

PIERCE COLLEGE 24

MONARCHS 23

SCOTT MITCHELL | SPECIAL TO THE STAR

PICK 'EM OFF - Monarch outside linebacker Glendall Whirley intercepted a pass from Brahma quarterback Exavier Johnson in Saturday night's homecoming matchup. The Monarchs lost by one point after Monarch kicker Augustin Flores missed an extra point late in the game. The loss ended the Monarchs season and bowl game hopes. The Monarchs end with a season record of 6-4.

SEE FULL STORY ON SPORTS PAGE 5

THE LOW DOWN

HOMELESS BUT NOT HOPELESS

A plan to end homelessness in Los Angeles may be put into play.

CRISTINA SERRATO

Due to over 50,000 homeless people sleeping on the streets of Los Angeles, a task force had been commissioned by the United Way and the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce in order to resolve what has become a crisis of homelessness.

"The shelters are full, there's no work and whether or not I want to be homeless, I am," said Johnny Montaso, who recently lost his job as a construction worker in Las Vegas and came back to Los Angeles in order to find a job.

A plan compiled by the Task Force on Homelessness entitled "Home for Good: The Action Plan to End Chronic and Veteran Homelessness by 2016" states that Los Angeles can cut the number of the homeless within five years by 70 percent or more. In other metro cities such as Denver, New York and Detroit, a similar program was used and the rate of homelessness decreased significantly.

"I didn't ever think I would be homeless but with the path I was leading and my own issues, it happened," said John, a mentally-ill, methamphetamine-addicted beggar who frequents the parking lots of local grocery stores. "It's easy to stay homeless 'cause then everyone feels bad for you and you can go to the programs, but they won't let you in if you use [drugs]," he added.

Los Angeles county spends close to $1 billion dollars on the homeless every year and the focus of much of the funds has been on providing housing for chronically homeless, which compile around 25 percent of the homeless population. The chronically homeless have been homeless for more than a year, sometimes several years, and like John, they typically suffer from metal health issues or addic-

|See **COLUMN**, Page 2|

ADMINISTRATION CUTS FORTY-NINE CLASSES FROM WINTER SESSION

Forty-nine classes cut in response to ongoing budget crisis

STEPHANIE COLMAN
STAFF WRITER

Committee members met Monday to determine which Winter 2011 classes would be canceled, following Valley College President Sue Carleo's recent mandate to cut the session by one-third. Carleo's decision came in an effort to reduce the college's budget deficit of $2 million.

Forty-nine classes were cut at an anticipated cost-savings of more than $268,000. It's estimated that approximately 2,500 students are left without a winter class.

"It's my responsibility to cut one-third of the classes," said Sandy Mayo, Valley's vice president of academic affairs. "It's tough. We're all trying to make decisions that are going to be painful for somebody."

Mayo's decision was made with input from the department chairs, faculty and administrators who are part of an Educational Planning Committee workgroup.

The 13 committee members in attendance evaluated every scheduled course based on a number of criteria. Classes not qualifying as basic skills, general education transfer or career technical education were among the first to go, along with classes that had not yet been assigned instructors. Additional considerations included whether a class transferred to both the UC and CSU systems, how many sections were offered, if it was being taught by full-time or adjunct faculty, and time of day scheduled.

Mayo stressed a desire to strike a balance between cuts to full-time versus adjunct faculty, and day and evening classes whenever possible.

The need to cut classes stems from a recent directive by Los Angeles Community College District Chancellor Daniel LaVista, requiring that Valley take steps to address its budget crisis. Valley's Educational and Planning Committee had initially recommended canceling the entire Winter 2011 session, a recommendation that was ultimately rejected by Carleo in favor of the one-third reduction.

Six online, 10 evening and 33 daytime classes from approximately 25 departments were eliminated. Department chairs and faculty were notified of the cancellations late Monday. Student notification began Tuesday with the list of canceled classes posted on the "schedules" section of LAVC.com. Notice of schedule changes were also announced on Valley's Facebook and Twitter page. Individual students were contacted via email if an address was available, or by phone. The goal was to notify faculty and students in a timely manner.

"I'm trying to rip the Band-Aid off as fast as possible," Mayo said. "This slow peel … I think the anxiety we're creating is just crazy, and I'd like to not be creating anxiety," she added, acknowledging the recent growing concern throughout the campus community regarding the unknown fate of the winter session.

SEE FULL LIST OF CANCELED CLASSES NEWS PAGE 2

VARUGHAN CHAPANIAN, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR

CELEBRATION- Merengue and salsa band Lucy & Edgar commenorated the opening of the Student Services Center.

VALLEY CUTS RIBBON ON STUDENT SERVICES BUILDING

The new Student Service building was offically opened Monday afternoon.

JON SEELEY
NEWS EDITOR

The $13.6 million Student Services Center and Annex were formally recognized Monday after a ribbon-cutting ceremony before a crowd of about 150 Valley College students, faculty, architects, and Los Angeles Community College District officials.

The 37,000-square-foot complex will house various student services in one place which were formerly scattered across campus including: Admissions & Records, Financial Aid, Placement and Assessment Centers, and the Associated Student Union.

ASU Commissioner of Public Relations Christian Fierro said centralizing all of the departments into one building makes life much easier for new and returning students.

"When I first started here at LAVC two years ago I remember how overwhelming it was just to get enrolled," said Fierro. "You had to go to one building to enroll at the admissions office, then you had to walk halfway across campus to take your test at the assessment center, then you had to go all the way back to speak to the counselors, and then financial aid was somewhere amongst the bungalows."

Daniel LaVista, chancellor of LACCD, said bringing various services together under one roof will promote student access and retention. Georgia Mercer, president of the board of trustees, called the complex, "a time and energy saver."

Valley President Sue Carleo was the master of ceremonies for the ribbon cutting. Immediately after the ribbon was cut by ASU Vice President Ronnie Kawamara, Lucy & Edgar, a meringue and salsa band, broke into a cover of Carlos Santana's "Oye Coma Va" amidst the smoke of grilling hotdogs. A line had formed behind the grilling station, and dwarfed the number of people seated and listening to the various speakers.

According to a Valley construction news brief, the complex broke ground in April 2009, was designed by Steinberg Architects and built by J.D. Diffenbaugh, Inc. The com-

|See **STUDENT SERVICES**, Page 2|

THIRD WHEEL TRIO

Free Concert

Last Wednesday the Third Wheel Trio performed in the music recital hall to an audience of approximately 20 students.

SEE VALLEY LIFE PAGE 4

ONLINE SLIDESHOW

Photos of the Week: ASU Club Day

These features and more can be found in full @ www.lavalleystar.com

THE VALLEY STAR INFO & STAFF

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CANCELED CLASSES:

SECTION	SUBJECT NAME	ST. TIME	END TIME	DAYS
1119	ART 501	8:00 AM	9:35 AM	MTWTH
1119	ART 501	9:35 AM	11:10 AM	MTWTH
1107	BIOLOGY 022	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	MTWTH
1107	BIOLOGY 022	10:45 AM	1:15 PM	MTWTH
1120	BUS 001	10:45 AM	1:15 PM	MTWTH
3029	REAL ES 001	6:30 PM	9:00 PM	MTWTH
1142	PHYS SC 014	1:00 PM	4:20 PM	T TH
7401	CHEM 051			
7401	CHEM 051	7:00 AM	10:20 AM	T TH
1104	ANTHRO 121	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	MTWTH
1229	OCEANO 001	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	MTWTH
1112	CO SCI 801	10:45 AM	1:15 PM	MTWTH
7002	CO SCI 801			
1117	ENGLISH 028	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	MTWTH
1196	ENGLISH 021	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	MTWTH
1219	ENGLISH 102	10:45 AM	1:15 PM	MTWTH
1220	ENGLISH 101	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	MTWTH
3012	ENGLISH 028	6:30 PM	9:00 PM	MTWTH
3020	ENGLISH 101	6:30 PM	9:00 PM	MTWTH
1113	CH DEV 004	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	MTWTH
3027	FRENCH 008	6:30 PM	8:40 PM	TWTH
3028	GERMAN 008	6:30 PM	8:40 PM	TWTH
3053	SPANISH 008	6:30 PM	8:40 PM	TWTH
1736	HISTORY 012	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	MTWTH
1133	MATH 125	8:00 AM	11:30 AM	MTWTHF
1207	MATH 112	10:45 AM	12:50 PM	MTWTHF
3023	MATH 105	6:30 PM	9:00 PM	MTWTH
3025	MATH 113	6:30 PM	9:00 PM	MTWTH
3013	BRDCSTG 001	6:30 PM	9:00 PM	MTWTH
8007	MUSIC 111	10:45 AM	1:15 PM	MTWTH
8008	MUSIC 111	10:45 AM	1:15 PM	MTWTH
6613	SPEECH 101	6:00 PM	11:05 PM	
6613	SPEECH 101	12:00 PM	4:05 PM	
6613	SPEECH 101			
8023	CAOT 001	9:00 AM	10:35 AM	MTWTH
8023	CAOT 001	10:40 AM	1:15 PM	MTWTH
8024	CAOT 001A	10:40 AM	1:15 PM	MTWTH
1162	PHILOS 001	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	MTWTH
3002	ECON 001	6:30 PM	9:00 PM	MTWTH
1122	HEALTH 011	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	MTWTH
2106	PHYS ED 690	10:35 AM	12:40 PM	MTWTHF
2902	PHYS ED 690	6:30 PM	8:35 PM	MTWTHF
2902	PHYS ED 690	6:30 PM	8:35 PM	MTWTHF
2103	DANCETQ 225	9:40 AM	12:00 PM	MTW
1143	PSYCH 001	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	MTWTH
1150	STAT 001	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	MTWTH
7009	PSYCH 002			
1007	AFRO AM 004	10:45 AM	1:15 PM	MTWTH
1110	CHICANO 008	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	MTWTH
7013	SOC 001			
7014	SOC 021			
1152	SPEECH 101	10:45 AM	1:15 PM	MTWTH
7404	SPEECH 101	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	T TH
7404	SPEECH 101			
1168	THEATER 270	10:45 AM	1:15 PM	MTWTH

STUDENT SERVICES

Continued from page 1

plex is part of $626 million slotted for renovation and building projects on Valley's campus paid for by LACCD's $5.7 billion Sustainable Building Program through propositions A and AA and Measure J. Los Angeles voters approved $2.2 billion through Proposition A in 2001, Proposition AA in 2003, and the $3.5 billion Measure J in 2008 to fund college infrastructure and extend programs. According to Build-LACCD.org, the projects resulting from the funding represent "the largest public sector sustainable building effort in the United States."

The one-story and two-story buildings that comprise the complex received Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design certification from the U.S. Green Buildings Council. Some of the "green" features include, "...a 'cool roof' to reduce heat, improved air quality, use energy more efficiently and cut water usage." It is also located close to the Orange Line Metro depot to promote convenient access.

Residents of the building also include Financial Aid, Counseling, Admissions & Records, Career Transfer Center, Business Office, Extended Opportunity Program and Services, Disabled Students Programs and Services , Personal Development Classroom, Student Outreach, Associated Student Union , Office of the Vice President of Student Services, Student Assessment Center and Placement Center, and Veteran Services.

COLUMN

Continued from page 1

tion.

"Every chronically homeless person I met had mental health issues, all of them," said Doug, founder of Youth Link of America, an organization that helps young people who are homeless throughout the United States.

The Task Force on Homelessness report suggested that the underlying issues such as mental health or addiction be addressed among the chronically homeless as well as the need for a place to live, to get to the root of the problem. After the chronically homeless are helped, everything else will fall into place, according to Jerry Neuman, co-chair for the Los Angeles Business Leaders Task Force to End Homelessness.

Nueman stated in a recent KPPC interview, "What we're saying is that if we help the chronically homeless, we're freeing up even more money to help those families who find themselves in a circumstance of sudden homelessness."

About 75 percent of the homeless population in Los Angeles are capable and want to provide for themselves if given the opportunity, however with the current financial state of California, there are few chances for the many who need it. The majority of homeless need a hand up and are not looking for a hand out, and a hand up is exactly what the Task Force for Homelessness is proposing.

ALL THE SINGLE DADS, PUT YOUR HANDS UP

A new era of parenting brings single fathers to Valley College.

ANTWONE MERCER
STAFF WRITER

Ask most people what constitutes a father and they will most likely answer back with descriptions like the breadwinner, little league coach, and household handy man. But when asked to describe the phrase "custodial parent," few people associate that title with dear old dad. The times are changing; and an increasing number of males are playing the all-around role customarily reserved for mothers.

"I've been a single dad for 14 years and find myself raising my kid a lot like my mom would," admits 50-year-old, Valley College student worker Fred Bustamante. Being that a lone mother raised him, Bustamante now knows how rough it can be for a single parent. However that doesn't stop dad. Bustamante is a full time single parent, full time student and also a full time general contractor, and still finds time to put in a few hours working in receiving here at Valley. Fred at one point did find himself struggling as a single parent, and took advantage of the resources that were giving to him through the Department of Social Services and CalWORKS.

According to a 2009 report by the U.S. Census Bureau, there are approximately 13.7 million single parents in the United States, who are responsible for raising 21.8 million children. Of these, roughly 84 percent are mothers, and 16 percent fathers. Since 1980, the number of single dads in the U.S. has doubled to nearly 1.6 million. The number of single father parenting is growing an average of six percent each year, which is double the rate for single moms.

"Part of the movement toward fathers taking a more active role in child-rearing has been motivated by the economy," said Valley's CalWorks Director Elli Rabani. "With a global recession now stretching into its third year, and with men being laid off, we have seen more single fathers the last few years than ever."

The Cal Works department, a program for low-income families and single parents, reports that there are 600 single mothers attending Valley and 38 single fathers. Although there is a five to one ratio between the two, single mothers and fathers alike have a place to turn for financial assistance in the Cal Works program. Just last year Valley's Cal Works department assisted 39 single parent-students with transfers to Cal State University, five of which were single dads.

Through all of this, Bustamante is keeping perspective, "Being a single father has had its ups and downs, however there's nothing more rewarding than to see how much of a young man my son is becoming."

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EASY COME, EASY GO

Students lucky enough to get a spot in a class, shouldn't disappear midway though the semester.

STEPHANIE COLMAN
STAFF WRITER

It used to be that staying in school long enough to consecutively earn a bachelor's, master's and doctorate degree -- an academic pursuit of eight years or more -- gave one the title of "professional student."

Today it's simply earning a bachelor's degree.

There's no question the academic deck is stacked against the student. Tuition is rising, the number of available classes is falling, and the start of the new semester found many Valley College students looking to beg, borrow or steal the add slips needed to secure a seat in an overcrowded classroom.

That was August. Three months later, are those same classes still overcrowded? Many of them aren't.

It seems some students feel a seat in class is easy come, easy go. In many ways, it is. Valley allows students to withdraw from a course, without the need for administrative approval, up until the eleventh week. The current deadline is Nov. 19. Withdrawing now results in a "W", which does not affect the student's grade point average. Students who withdraw from a course are eligible to immediately re-enroll the following semester.

In comparison, CSUN students only have three weeks to easily opt out of a course. By the fourth week, requests to withdraw from a course are only granted in cases of extraordinary circumstances, of which, the most likely reasons why Valley students disappear from classes -- change in work schedule, participation in extracurricular activities, academic overload, or earning a less-than-desired grade -- don't fly. As adults, university students are expected to follow through on the academic schedules they set for themselves.

It's understood that students at Valley are working toward a variety of academic goals. Not every student is university-bound and following what they hope will be an efficient ride through the community college experience. No doubt, some students who disappear from a class must do so with good reason. Others ultimately decide it's too inconvenient to wake up on time for an 8 a.m. class, and with no penalty for withdrawing late, there's little motivation for those students to face up to the "grown up" responsibility of maintaining their academic schedule.

This cavalier attitude should not be allowed to impact students who are making every attempt to complete transfer requirements in a timely manner. As Valley struggles to cope with continued budget cuts by reducing available classes, open seats will become even harder to come by. When your online registration date arrives and you manage to get a spot in a class, either appreciate and take full advantage of the opportunity, or save the seat for someone who will.

RICARDO VARELA | VALLEY STAR
JAVA JUNK - A forgotten cup of coffee adorns the main walkway of the quad area in front of the bookstore.

CAMPUS IN NEED OF A CLEANUP

Surrounded by empty soda cans and bags of chips, Valley College needs to clean up the campus.

NARINE PETROSYAN
STAFF WRITER

On the corner of one side of campus sits a trashcan, five inches away stands a half-empty bottle of Diet Coke in need of a home. Bags of Lays potato chips escape the vending machines and move with the wind across campus.

Though the cleanliness of campus has improved from previous semesters, there is still much that can be done to achieve a cleaner learning environment. With all the construction that is going on, the campus already looks disheveled. And soda cans and bags of chips on the ground do not help.

"I think the school campus is mediocre. We could be doing a better job, but we just lag," said Valley College student Dierik Gonzalez.

"Mediocre" and "lag" seem to be code for a dirty mess. There are trashcans all over campus, yet some students find it difficult to use them. Even though it takes less than two minutes to walk over to a trash can and throw away trash. Gum is spit on the floor and stuck underneath desks rather than inside the trashcan. Games of trashcan basketball leave many missed soda cans on the ground. What is supposed to be a college campus looks more like a grammar school classroom.

In addition to the litter, the putrid smells that roam some of the buildings' hallways are just plain toxic. Bad combinations of odors waft their way into classrooms. Even worse are the bathrooms; used paper towels and toilet paper cover the floors and clog the toilets.

Dirty tampons are abandoned in improper places and in one stall it was necessary to post a sign that reads, "Ladies, do not urinate on the floor." Keep in mind this is the women's bathroom, which is characteristically cleaner than the men's. Then there are the ancient bungalows that reek just from being so old.

Compared to Pierce College, where it'd be hard to find a single dust bunny, Valley needs to step it up and work on the beautification of campus. Because nobody wants to study on a campus that looks more like a junkyard than a school.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor of the Valley Star:

This upcoming winter session crisis has poised many questions about the efficiency and competency of both our ASU leaders, and administrative figures- focusing primarily on Susan Carleo and Hanna Matevosyan who suspended their foresight and responsible sensibilities to sheer negligence- at the expense of the entire student community.

In a world short of cash and financial resources, how can someone like Carleo not foresee a budget shortfall for this upcoming winter session? Los Angeles Valley College is the only school who offers a comprehensive winter schedule designed to help transfer students all around the county. Matevosyan, already embattled in defending her own leadership reputation, has dually failed to address the winter session crisis in a way that is productive to our student body. The "closed door" sessions (one I had the pleasure of witnessing) are definitively showcases of delusional student power- spearheaded by a puppet like Matevosyan, who is responsible to represent all of us- young and old. With her failure to push harder and appropriate money wisely comes our predicament -5,000 transfer students hanging in limbo- waiting on pins and needles for the decisions of city appointed chancellors and committees who have nothing to lose otherwise.

This problem explores the failure to communicate between our two levels of management- the ASU, and Susan Carleo. Our inability to prepare ourselves for the winter session semester crisis highlights LAVC's current administrative culture of negligence and lack of credibility. In order to serve the students, our leaders must be held accountable. Community colleges serve an invaluable function to our society, and we all need to expect our current leadership- Matevosyan and Carleo- to realize the consequences of their negligence and failure to communicate to prevent this academic calamity.

In summation, we can all learn from this winter disaster by understanding its consequences and prepare for it never happening again. Until then, I look forward to jammed classrooms and justified student frustration- an environment alien to those who make the decisions to put us where we are today.

Barry Jakob*

****

(Jakob occasionally contributes news briefs to the Valley Star.)

Dear Editor of the Valley Star,

Jon Seeley (Proposition 19 Loses To Ignorance, Nov. 11, 2010) got an arrow-splitting bull's eye exposing cannabis (marijuana) prohibition as one of governments biggest policy failures. Cannabis prohibition also extends to hemp prohibition. Communist Chinese farmers grow hemp but free U.S. farmers may not and America's largest foreign debt is with China. American farmers are at a disadvantage to compete in the free world market due to cannabis prohibition.

Another reason to legalize cannabis that doesn't get mentioned is because it is Biblically correct since God, The Ecologician indicates He created all the seed bearing plants saying they are all good, on literally the very first page (see Genesis 1:11-12 and 29-30). The only Biblical restriction placed on cannabis is to accept it with thankfulness (1 Timothy 4:1-5).

Ending the anti-American and anti-Christian cannabis prohibition and extermination is one of the most important issues of our time.

Truthfully,
Stan White
Dillon, Colorado

GOT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR?

Letters to the editor can be sent to:
editor@lavalleystar.com or submitted online at **www.lavalleystar.com.** Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.

SUB-PAR SCHOOL SPIRIT

Valley College students just don't find school events all that interesting, nor do they have the time to attend.

IVAN ZUNIGA
STAFF WRITER

There is that question, "If a tree falls in the forest and no one is there to hear it, does it make a sound?" If Valley College students don't attend campus events for whatever ill-conceived incongruity of said event being lame, is it in fact lame because no one was there to attend? For all the inadvertent reverence Valley has for George Twiss, we should have more classes that would deal with metaphysical philosophy.

Valley has a variety of events going on every week, be it club days or various fairs de jour. Ironically, students are hardly ever interested in what Valley has to offer, even if these events often are for the benefit of those same students who snub them.

"School events aren't that interesting to me," said Valley student Leslie Perez. "I don't stick around for most events because they all look the same."

Most college students carry heavy course loads, work full-time jobs, and have families let alone some semblance of a social life. Making time to attend school functions aren't high on the priority list. This in effect turns out to be a vicious cycle. When student turn out at school events is weak, the few students that might actually have the time or desire to attend school functions are steered away inadvertently because future events are usually cancelled.

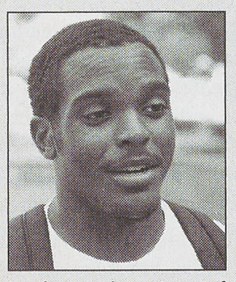
Essentially empty bleachers scattered with on average eight to 10 people is just sad to see. It seems the friends, peers, and family members of the players find it difficult to make it to their games. It may as well be another practice; no one attends those events either.

"It is hard to find enough hours in the day to attend to all the demands on our time. I attend many of our college events, be it concerts, plays, sports competitions, special exhibits, etc., and I am always impressed with the number of other people in attendance with me." Valley President Sue Carleo said.

Maybe there is a difference between community college spirit and that of a major university. Most students plan on transferring and don't plan on staying for long, or at least long enough to form any type of attachment. Many don't see the need to commit to something they're not entirely part of, even if some students have been attending Valley for the better part of a decade.

Consider this an open invitation. It's okay Valley students, embrace your inner school spirit. The sooner you realize this isn't high school and that people are here to help, the sooner you'll be on your way to bigger and better. Plus, if you attend, no one will know. Just like that tree in the forest.

VALLEY VIEW | HOW HAS THE 33 PERCENT REDUCTION OF WINTER COURSES AFFECTED YOU AND YOUR EDUCATIONAL GOALS?



"I live down the street from here, and now I have to drive over to Pierce just to get my classes, that's bull."

-JAMAL JONES, PSYCHOLOGY

"I hope (the cancellation) doesn't become obsolete like the second summer session. It's going to take people longer to get out of here."

-LORENA BERNAL, SOCIOLOGY

"It's affecting me, because honestly, my life is crap right now, I'm just trying to get the best out of it as I can, as quick as possible."

-ANTHONY DUBARR-FLORIAN, THEATER

"I haven't been able to take my courses that I've wanted to take and it's put me really behind on my major."

-ANGELA AKOPYAN, BIOLOGY

"Actually, it doesn't affect me because this is my last semester. If I want to spend more time here, it would affect me though."

-ZASUOP ANDRADE, NURSING

PHOTOS BY VARUGHAN CHAPANIAN | VALLEY STAR

THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID ...

HUMAN TARTARE

Conditioned to give grace at Thanksgiving, most Americans are unaware of the savage nature of the holiday.

KELLY DAVIS

Every year as November rolls around, the seasons begin to change, the leaves turn vibrant colors, the air crisps, and aromas of fried flesh waft from homes across the country.

Families across America decorate their homes with colorful leaves, feathers, cornucopias, and gourds in preparation for Thanksgiving.

A traditional meal consists of turkey, baked or fried, mashed potatoes, stuffing, cranberry sauce, and other dishes that American families have become accustomed to. It's a time when families and friends gather together and give thanks for what they have, be it a little or a lot.

In schools across America, our children learn about the so-called history of Thanksgiving. The once religious-centered holiday supposedly dates back to 1621, when the white settlers declared a three-day feast to celebrate the bountiful harvest they had reaped over the summer following a harsh winter of starvation and sickness. The Thanksgiving Festival was their way of giving thanks to God and their "Indian friends."

Dig a little deeper and the truth gets a bit sketchy. During the winter of 1609-1610, the 500 colonists dwindled to 60, going to great lengths, including cannibalism, to survive "starving time."

The 1619 Journals of the House of Burgesses of Virginia recounts the first 12 years of the Jamestown colony, "... driven thru insufferable hunger to eat those things which nature most abhorred, the flesh and excrements of man ... digged by some out of his grave after he had lain buried three days ... one among them slew his wife as she slept in his bosom, cut her in pieces, salted her and fed upon her till he had clean devoured all parts saving her head..."

The Native Americans, or Indians as they had been ignorantly dubbed, were hardly friends of the white settlers. According to historian and social activist Howard Zinn, "When Columbus and his sailors came ashore, carrying swords, speaking oddly, the Arawaks (a native tribe) ran to greet them, brought them food, water, (and) gifts." Columbus later wrote in his log, "...they (Arawaks) do not bear arms, and do not know of them ... they would make fine servants. With fifty men we could subjugate them all and make them do whatever we want."

So while the Natives welcomed the settlers with kindness and generosity, they were treated with hostility; raped, tortured, enslaved, killed and burned within their villages. Harvard historian Samuel Eliot Morison referred to it as a "complete genocide."

In 1607, Chief Powhatan pled with John Smith, "Why will you take by force what you may have quietly by love? Why will you destroy us who supply you with food? We are unarmed, and willing to give you what you ask, if you come in a friendly manner."

From the arrival of the white man, this country has been rooted in hatred of those who are different. The white man invaded America and killed the native inhabitants. Yet, today "Americans" fear immigration of those who aren't natives of this country. Perhaps it's out of fear that karma is slowly catching up to us. Generations later, we will pay the price for the actions of our ancestors.

This Thanksgiving, we should be grateful that we aren't in such dire condition that we are forced to resort to deep-frying our children. But more importantly, we should take the time to reflect on those who have suffered or are suffering as a result of our opulence.

E-mail Kelly Davis at
k.davis@lavalleystar.com

LAVC Events

November 18th
Don't Miss the Next STARS Event-"Giving Back to the Community"
STARS (Strategic Team for the Advancement and Retention of Students) and LAVC Professional Development will present a workshop entitled "Giving Back to the Community" on Thursday, Nov. 18 from 1-2:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Come find out how to help others in your community. Participants will learn about the benefits they can gain from volunteering. This workshop is open to all students, faculty and staff. For more information, contact Professional Development at (818) 947-2712 or email profdev@lavc.edu, or visit http://www.lavc.edu/profdev/.

November 18th
Readings by Professors Wimmer & Wallis
Professors William "Dick" Wimmer and William "Bill" Wallis, from the LAVC English Department, will hold a reading of both sensual and profound fiction on Thursday, Nov. 18 from 7-9 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The campus community is invited to attend this free event. For more information, contact Dick Wimmer at (818) 889-1006 or dickwimm@yahoo.com.

FREE CONCERT WEDNESDAYS IN NOVEMBER

Wednesday, 17th
1 - 2 p.m.
Music for Piano & Trumpet
Performing music of Böhme, Ravel, de Falla and Vizzuti
Dr. Yih-Mei Hu, piano; Dr.. Meghan Turner, trumpet
Music Recital Hall (M106)

Wednesday, 24th
1 - 2 p.m.
Faculty/Student German Lieder Concert
Performing music of Schumann, Brahms, Schubert, Wolf, and Mozart
Music Recital Hall (M106)

! THINK TRANSFER

Think Transfer! Fall 2011 CSU and UC Transfer Application deadline is November 30th. Apply at www.csumentor.edu and www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply

UCLA STUDENT TRANSFER CONFERENCE FREE BUS TRIP on Friday, Nov. 19. Sign-ups required.

NOVEMBER

Wednesday, 17th
National University Rep
10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Monarch Square
Undecided Major/Career Workshop 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, 18th
Undecided Major/Career Workshop 1 - 2 p.m.
UC Merced Rep
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
CSUN Rep 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Monday, 22nd
Antioch College Rep
1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Monarch Square
How to Transfer Workshop
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, 23rd
How to Transfer Workshop
1 p.m. - 2 p.m.
College Personal Statement Workshop 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, 24th
CSUN Rep 10am-1pm
Undecided Major/Career Workshop 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

All activities held at the Career/Transfer Center unless other wise indicated. For further information call us at (818) 947-2646.

THE PUGLIESE TWINS MAKE LIFE COUNT

Valley College students Greg and Albert Pugliese share a bond that no one can touch.

LUCAS THOMPSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

When doctors informed Albert and Caroline Pugliese that their twin boys had a 60-40 percent chance to survive birth, all they could do was hope.

Born two and a half months prematurely and weighing just over three pounds, the "miracle boys," as their father calls them, began the battle of life as they have continued to do for the last 23 years...together.

"They're always together, they're always talking," fellow speech team member Cristina Leiva said. "They are just very close, more than I can say the average brother and sister (are)."

Homeschooled for 12 years by their father, Albert Jr. and Greg forged a special bond, which according to them is irreplaceable.

"Nobody could replace him," Albert Jr. said of Greg. "Whoever enters our lives will have to accept both of us or else they don't enter in."

Sharing a bedroom since birth and never leaving each other's side for more than three days at a time, the identical twins are truly dependant on one another, while still managing to be completely opposite in personality.

"To start with, I'm more aggressive," Greg Pugliese said. "(I'm) more outgoing, where Albert is more sensitive."

Albert Jr. followed, "I'm more the listener than the talker."

Whatever differences, the unique traits both twins display do not stretch too far; the pair are both majoring in theater arts here at Valley and have been acting since they were 7 years old.

The inspiration comes from their father who has carried out roles in several feature films and has made appearances in recent television series such as "Law and Order," "Glee," and "Castle." The twin's exposure to the entertainment industry came at an early age as their father, who was beginning his career, was often forced to take the pair to his auditions.

In their first audition the two landed a role in a Wiener Schnitzel commercial that ran during the Super Bowl and have continued to build their resume ever since. With Greg more focused on acting, and Albert more focused on makeup and costume work, the duo, whom have made the dean's list every semester since their Fall 2007 arrival at Valley, display pure determination in every goal they place in front of them.

"They are very passionate about everything they do," Leiva said. "They are determined and very hardworking. I have never seen anyone so dedicated to everything they do."

In a day and age where the act of interminable affection and closeness of a family is considered taboo, Greg and Albert Pugliese have taken their symbiotic relationship and love of family to gain success and moral standing in a most important way – support.

RICARDO VARELA | VALLEY STAR
INSEPARABLE - The Pugliese Twins take their symbiotic relationship to gain success and moral standing.

Their vibrant personalities and limitless caring define why "going about it alone," is not always the best option. Four helping hands and two smiling mouths characterize what is so similar yet so individual about the inseparable twins. Hopefully, in a time of selfishness and decreased ambition more of us can be like the Pugliese twins.

"What I appreciate about them the most is that they are good young men," said Albert Sr. "I wouldn't feel my job was done right if they weren't good people, and that's what I'm most happy about ... that's the thing I'm most proud of."

ROLLING ON THREE WHEELS

Valley College students get an exclusive performance of local composer's music.

DAVID MOTTE
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Continuing with the theme of showcasing horn ensembles, Valley Music Department's Free Concert Series featured yet another woodwind assemblage Wednesday afternoon called the Third Wheel Trio. The ensemble performed the music of various local performers, some of which being exclusive to the trio.

The Third Wheel Trio consists of clarinetist Adrienne Geffen and flutist Karin Kantenwein with special guest Anthon Parnther on the bassoon. Opening their set with "La ci darem la mano" from Mozart's "Don Giovanni," the trio proceeded to perform two exclusive songs by local composers Brenton Kossak and Mark Popeney, both of whom are only in their late twenties.

Before finishing the set with "Fragments" by Robert Muczynski, the group played a medley by Stephen Foster (arranged by Henry Leland Clarke), which included the American classic, "Oh Susanna."

As proficient as the performers are, the music department should consider showcasing music that appeals more to your everyday students, instead of just the woodwind students who attend Valley. A little variety would probably help with the attendance, as it seems that fewer students seem to be attending the concerts as the weeks go by.

Free Concert Wednesdays will continue with "Music for Piano & Trumpet" on Nov.17 featuring Dr. Yih-Mei Hu on piano and Dr. Meghan Turner on trumpet. All concerts are performed in Music Recital Hall Room M106, Wednesdays at 1 p.m. and are free of charge.

SAMSON UBA | VALLEY STAR
HITTING ALL THE RIGHT NOTES - Third Wheel flutist Karin Kantenwein opened their set with "La ci darem la mano."

TWO CENTS FROM SPENCE

SCOTT PILGRIM GETS SECOND LIFE ON DVD

New DVD release should give second life to sorely underrated masterpiece.

J.P. SPENCE

During the heavy summer blockbuster season that was dominated by "Toy Story 3," "The Other Guys," and "Inception," some films were obviously overlooked. Now that "Scott Pilgrim vs. the World" is on DVD, viewers will have a chance to take in the latest masterpiece from director Edgar Wright.

Adapted from the series of graphic novels written by Bryan Lee O'Malley, "Scott Pilgrim" tells the story of Scott, your average Canadian indie-rock slacker in pursuit of his latest romance, Ramona Flowers. Everything seems simple enough, save for the fact that Ramona has seven evil exes that will do anything they can to stop the couple from being together, including demon hipster chicks, stunt doubles, lesbian ninja assassins, and epic bass battles.

Michael Cera plays the lead character, Scott Pilgrim. Upon first sight, one might think that this film is more about Michael Cera playing himself than Scott Pilgrim. While this is a half-truth, Cera has enough self-effacing charisma to pull the character off rather than, say, Jesse Eisenberg. Mary Elizabeth Winstead is Ramona Flowers. There is much acting depth to playing the woman of every slacker-geek's dreams, but she looks great, which is her primary purpose in the film.

It's not really the main characters in "Scott Pilgrim" that make the movie work but rather the secondary characters that steal the show. Kieran Culkin plays Wallace Wells, Scott's gay roommate who effectively steals every scene he's in. Ellen Wong adds comic relief as Knives Chau showing just how juvenile puppy love really is. Anna Kendrick and Brie Larson do great turns as Pilgrim's sister and ex-girlfriend respectively. Aubrey Plaza and Jason Schwartzman have small, but memorable, roles in the film as well.

What sets this film apart from other films in the 18-49 demographic milieu of films is the combination of story and presentation. The special effects have the perfect balance of high quality CGI and low-fi 8-bit video game technology. It's the proper use and timing of these effects that not only lend the film a satirical edge but a definitive pop-art quality.

Director Wright and screenwriter Michael Bacall write a winning script that is at the core a "boy falls for girl" story, yet is simultaneously more than that. The cultural references come a mile a minute and are equally funny and poignant. It's a great example of how people today are more akin to talking in code via references than being direct. While Wright and Bacall wrote a script that aims for the zeitgeist, the story of boy meets girl is timeless.

So if you're wondering what to watch in between the latest and greatest version of the special deluxe edition of "Avatar" and has far better sensibilities than season one of "Glee," hit "Scott Pilgrim vs. the World" up on the Red Box.

E-mail J.P. Spence at *managing@lavalleystar.com*
Send general comments to *valleystar@lavalleystar.com*

VALLEY DANCE CLUB EAGER TO REACH OUT

Valley College's recently chartered dance club gave a unique performance in Monarch Square.

CAROLINA LEON
STAFF WRITER

As students joined the Associated Student Union Club Day, six Valley College Dance Club members discreetly made their way into their enclosed tent preparing for their surprise seven-minute performance at Monarch Square on Nov 10. The performance took place around 1 p.m. honoring courageous veterans who have fought for freedom, peace and justice.

Once the tent was unveiled, the dancers were dressed and painted as white statues. As the six dancers began without movement, students watched in curiosity as the dancers used props to move slowly into different positions while peaceful music played softly.

"[The dance] was different from what I've seen before. They really thought out of the box, and I enjoyed watching it," said Valley student Joshua Rucker.

Dance Club President and choreographer, Noelle Andressen-Kale, dancers, Johneima Hababag, Johnnica Hababag, Jessica Flores, Astghik Sinanyan and Adriana Daniyelyan all posed for several minutes. Once President Andressen-Kale placed her hand gently on dance club member Johnnica Hababag she slowly came to life as well as the other dancers. The performance ended as they all came together and into the audience.

"My favorite thing about this performance was persuading others we weren't human beings, but statues," said dancer Jessica Flores.

The performance was dedicated to Valley's dance instructor, Geordie Wright, who encouraged Andressen-Kale to continue dancing after surviving cancer.

"[Geordie Wright] was there for me, I felt inspired to dance again," said Andressen-Kale. "The performance was an extension of the inspiration that I wanted to give back to the school."

Johniema and Johnnica Hababag, twins at Valley officially joined the club a week before the performance and have many reasons they find this club beneficial.

"It's fun because we do things that we wouldn't normally do, like this," said Johnnica. "I've been here a week and already had so much fun."

The dance club was developed by Andressen-Kale two semesters ago and was officially chartered this semester. Meetings take place Wednesdays on campus at 3 p.m. in Humanities Room 105. Events and business are discussed for half an hour and the remainder of the meeting is spent dancing to hip-hop, ballet, and modern music. Any level of dancing skill is welcomed and the club provides a place for dancers to express their passion, meet new people while also setting outreach goals for the community.

"We don't turn anyone away," said Andressen-Kale.

The dance club will perform a modern lyrical piece at the Dean's List Reception on Nov. 22. Future plans consist of working with the Child Resource Center, teaching kids to dance and planning an off-campus event hoping to reach the elderly in retirement homes.

WINDY NICELY | VALLEY STAR

UNITY - Valley's Dance Club peforming a dance for club day.

WINDY NICELY | VALLEY STAR

FROZEN - A dancer holds a pose for minutes at a time.

STORYTELLING GURU GIVES USEFUL ADVICE

Author Richard Walter shares his experiences in the film industry to aspiring media arts majors.

IVAN ZUNIGA
STAFF WRITER

Writers from all types of backgrounds gathered in Monarch Hall to hear from the chairman of the UCLA Film, Television and Digital Media Writing Program. Richard Walter showed up to Valley College and shared his most valuable knowledge in the film and television screenwriting field.

Walter has been the a professor and chairman of the UCLA Film School for more than 30 years. Recently, Walter published his new book "The Art, Craft, and Business of Film and Television Writing," an updated version of his 1998 version of the book.

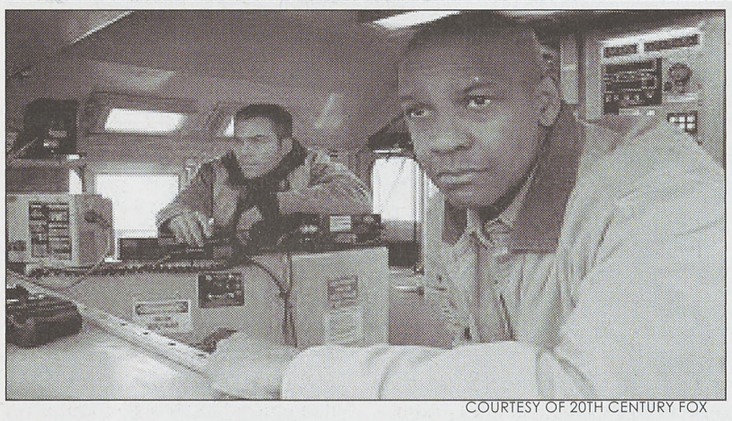
Students who attended the event had the chance to ask questions and hear about his UCLA program. Walter also talked about several principles, which included money, truth, sex and violence, which are all key points for a successful script.

"Some of the major mistakes new writers make is that they want to write their own personal story and the truth is that no one wants to hear about that," said Walter. "So if you want to be treated like a professional, you have to treat yourself like a professional."

Other topics discussed included writer's interest, audience appeal and popular trends in Hollywood. Each of these topics tied in to what movies are making money at the box office, which is what writers need to keep in mind when pitching a script.

"Everybody who is well established in the movie business once was completely unknown. It's not all about connections," said Walter. "It really is democratic, it all depends about how great of a script you're writing."

Working with some of the major Hollywood blockbuster film productions, students were fortunate enough to hear some of Walter's experiences that inspired writers to push themselves into becoming great screen writers.



COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY FOX

CARRYING DEAD WEIGHT

Another train film with Denzel Washington sounds more fun than it looks.

J.P. SPENCE
MANAGING EDITOR

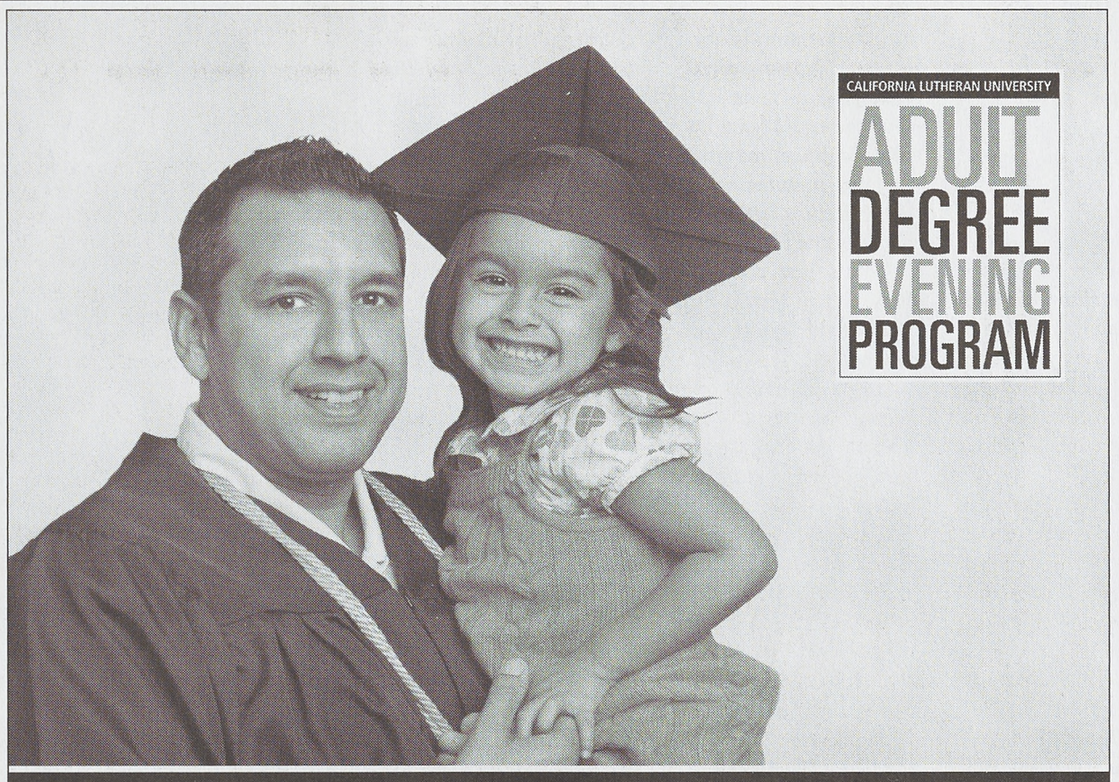
Lets preface this review by saying the film is called "Unstoppable." Most would think that this is in reference to the runaway train, which does get stopped, but is better served as an indictment that the general public is willing to watch a film devoid of character if there is promise of action.

The plot, oddly enough, is based on a true story. In 2001, a CSX transportation train began its 66-mile escape from Ohio and was headed for Pennsylvania when an engineer mistakenly did not set the train's dynamic braking system. The train was eventually stopped when another train caught up with it and applied their brakes to slow the runaway train.

While the basis of the film is true, director Tony Scott completely sucks out any layers or depth to the film and leaves it as a one-dimensional film about two guys trying to stop a train. What's so irritating about "Unstoppable" is that the film plays into every cliché of what an action film should be. The film goes from jump cut, to action shot, to Denzel Washington saying something to Chris Pine doing something, in the same sequence for an hour and a half. It would be funnier if it wasn't so insulting that Tony Scott thinks that he can make one movie and call it "Man on Fire," then repurpose it as "Déjà vu" and then add John Travolta and call it "The Taking of Pelham 123." As a fiction film director, Tony Scott is an icon but clearly he lacks inspiration.

Speaking of lack of inspiration, Denzel Washington gives another tired performance as an ordinary man stuck in the middle of an extraordinary situation. This would also mark the second film in as many years with the same director about trains as well. To say his performance in the film was underwhelming could be considered an understatement. There was time when Denzel played huge, iconic figures like Steve Biko, Malcolm X, or Ruben Carter, it'd be nice to see him get back to that.

In summary, "Unstoppable" is everything that you'd expect to see from a Tony Scott film involving trains that stars Denzel Washington and the new Captain Kirk. While the pieces are in place, this film is exactly the sum of its parts, which isn't saying much. Wait for this one on DVD.



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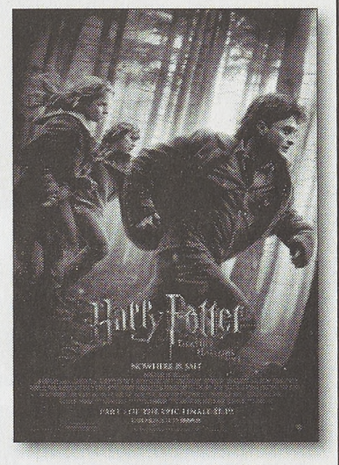
OPENING THIS WEEKEND



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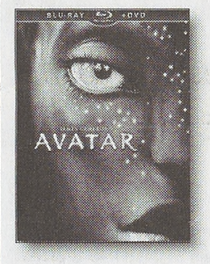
- *Unstoppable:* $22.7M+
- *Due Date:* $15.4M+
- *Skyline:* $11.7M+
- *Morning Glory:* $9.2M+

MEDIA RELEASES

DVD



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THE LADY KILLER

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CONCERTS & THEATRE

- *Blonde Redhead:* Nov. 17 *The Music Box*
- *Gwar:* Nov. 17 *Ventura Theatre*
- *Usher:* Nov. 18 *Staples Center*
- *Blondie:* Nov. 18 *Fox Performing Arts Center*
- *Black Label Society:* Nov. 19 *The Wiltern*
- *Unwritten Law:* Nov. 19 *Galaxy Theatre*
- *Slightly Stoopid:* Nov. 20 *Roxy Theatre*

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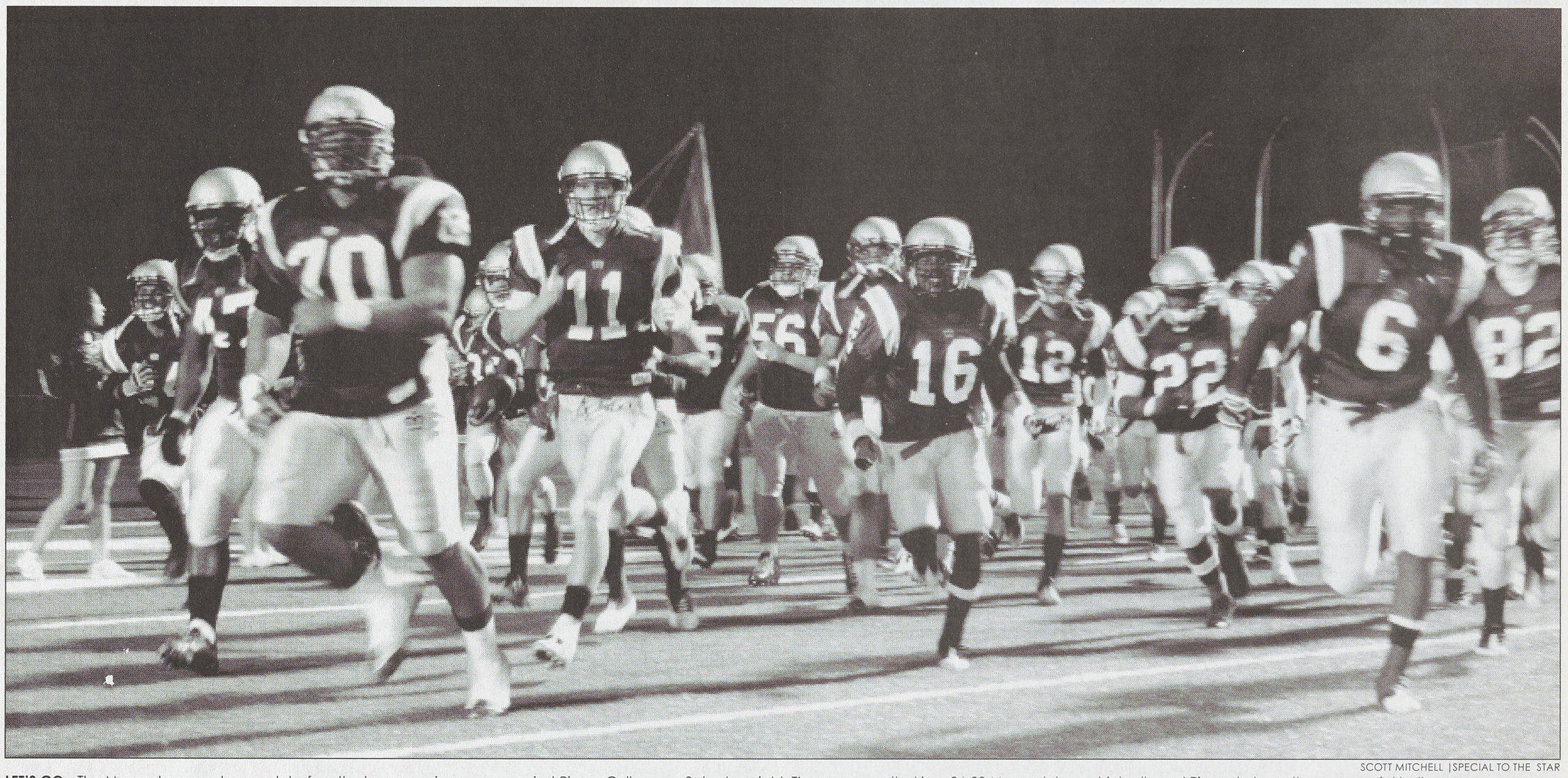


SCOTT MITCHELL |SPECIAL TO THE STAR

LET'S GO - The Monarchs ran out seconds before the homecoming game against Pierce College on Saturday night. The game resulted in a 24-23 Monarch loss, which allowed Pierce to keep the ceremonial bell.

MONARCHS COME UP SHORT AGAINST PIERCE

A 24-23 loss against Pierce College Saturday at Homecoming ended the Monarch season.

LUCAS THOMPSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Live music filled Monarch Stadium for more than two hours Saturday before the homecoming matchup between Valley and Pierce College. After the game, when the band stopped playing and the clock had hit zero, there was only one sound that stood out over the boisterous cheers, that overwhelmed the Monarch sideline – a bell.

The Monarchs and Valley fans watched as members of the Pierce football team rang the bell, which signifies the victor in the annual matchup between the two teams. It was one point, in the 24-23 loss, that ended the Monarchs overall 6-4 season and chance at a bowl game

"Every game's tough but it's tough because Pierce has so much more talent than we do and so it's hard to contain a team like that and compete with a team like that," said Valley's Head Football Coach Jim Fenwick. "The fact that we did, and gave our self a chance, especially the way we competed in the second half, I think was indicative of the kind of kids we have."

While the Monarch offense struggled to gather any momentum in the first quarter, their counterpart posted 17 unanswered points off a Steven Sandoval field goal, a Dame Julian five-yard pass reception and an Exavier Johnson four-yard carry into the end zone. The Brahmas maintained possession of the football for nine minutes and 60 seconds of the first quarter, completely shutting down the running and passing game of the Monarch offense.

"It's just coming up short," Monarch running back Germi Morrison said. "We played hard (but) we kind of started off slow, we felt like we had them, but we let them get away … we were just out of sync."

The Monarchs managed one touchdown in the second quarter, set up by a Dan Owen quarterback keeper, which gave Valley the ball on the one-yard line. On the next play Morrison punched it in for six, making it 17-7 in favor of the Brahmas. The strong play on both sides of the ball, however, gave Pierce a 24-10 lead heading into half.

Defense defined the third quarter up until 2:20 remained. Owen found wide receiver David Valencia on a 59-yard pass play, which brought the Monarchs within one touchdown of the visiting Brahmas. The Valley defense held Pierce scoreless for the rest of the game, allowing the offense -- which had struggled all night -- to find rhythm.

"It was a tough battle," Monarch linebacker Wesley Gates said. "We fought our heart out, but lost by one point. We just went back to our base defense, we just went back to how we usually play and our base worked."

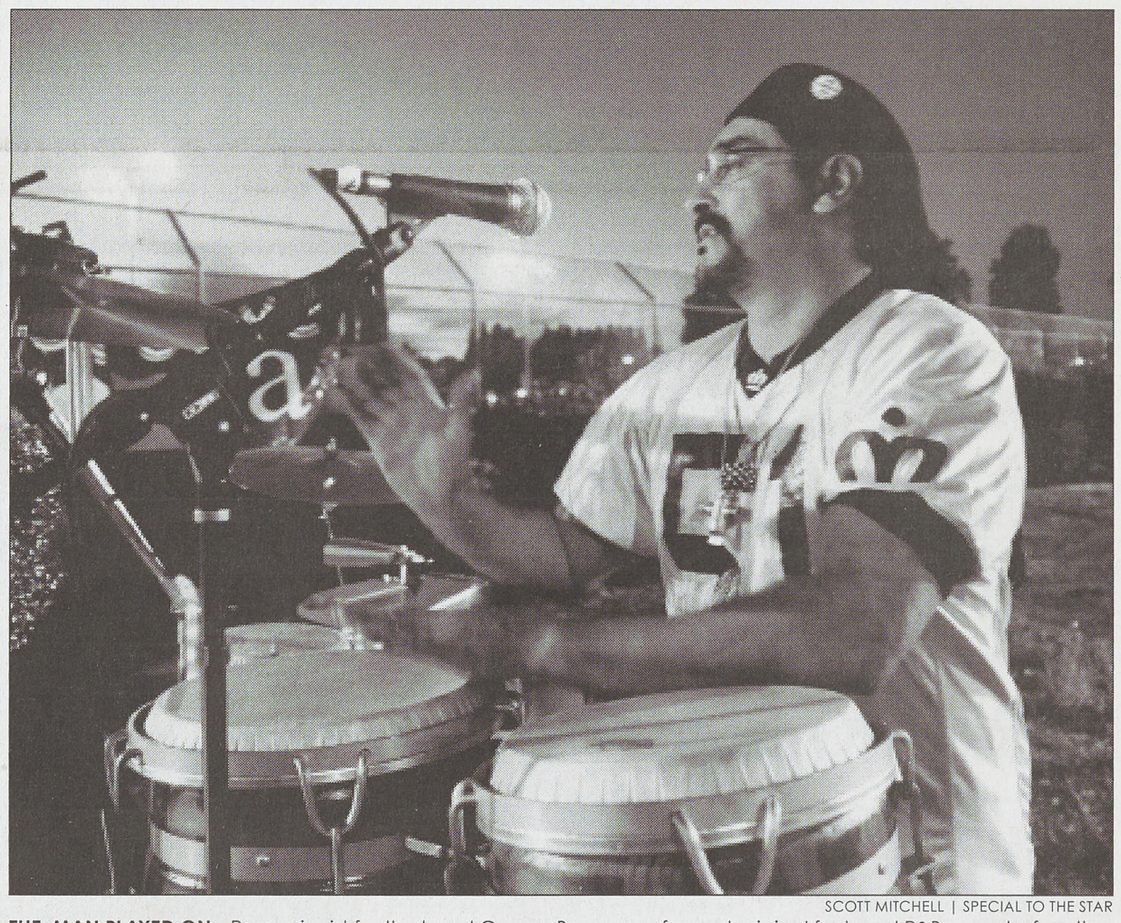
With 5:20 remaining in the game, the Monarchs managed to drive down to the Pierce 11-yard line. On maybe the most pivotal series of the game Owen found the end zone once more on a Travion Odom touchdown catch which brought the team within one. Odom struggled throughout the night with several dropped passes, but still combined for 42 yards and one touchdown. On the ensuing extra point attempt, Kicker Augustin Flores failed to put the ball through the uprights, leaving the Monarchs down 24-23 late in the fourth.

A Pierce fumble deep in Valley territory gave the Monarchs one last possession to defeat the Brahmas. The Monarchs failed to convert on their final series of the game which gave Pierce the victory 24-23. Pierce (7-3) will face San Bernardino Valley College (7-3) in the American Championship Bowl on Nov. 20.

"Coming from last year, this was a big step," Morrison said. "We came up short tonight but I'm really proud of everybody, I love all these dudes. We all came out and worked hard this season through the summer, spring, and we fought hard all season. (It) just sucks we came up short tonight."

SCOTT MITCHELL| SPECIAL TO THE STAR

DEFEAT - Quarterback Dan Owen after Saturday's loss.



SCOTT MITCHELL | SPECIAL TO THE STAR

THE MAN PLAYED ON - Percussionist for the band Groove Bazaar performed original funk and R&B songs before the homecoming day on Saturday.

VALLEY HAS SPIRIT

Tailgating, live music, and a large audience at the Monarch football game, defined why Valley has school spirit.

CRISTINA SERRATO
STAFF WRITER

Recent speculation that Valley College has lost its school spirit was overwhelmingly debunked by the lively crowd that attended the homecoming game on Saturday.

"This is the biggest turnout we have had," said Valley cheerleader Sara Thompson. "It's a good sign; maybe a lot of people are here to support [Valley]."

The parking lot before any university football game is filled with happy tailgaters barbecuing, celebrating and pepping up for the upcoming game, and on Saturday Valley was no different. Though there were not many, the alumni, former and current players as well as the staff and cheer squad along with relatives and friends composed much of Valley's tailgaters Saturday. The groups of people brought out tables, blankets, banners and of course food. The cheer squad did their tailgating meal potluck style, complete with Monarch green cupcakes.

"This season we have a lot more people here than last year, there's a lot of school spirit," said Valley cheerleader Karim Coleman. "It's cool that everyone is here together."

Before the homecoming game against Valley arch-rival Pierce College, many of the Valley alumni, athletic staff and former players met to barbecue, have a few drinks and see some familiar faces from the past. A band called the Groove Bazaar donned Valley jerseys and performed live music, while the excited friends, family and staff of Valley revved up for the game.

"It's not much of a crowd now, but it looks like it's going to be a good crowd here tonight," said Phil Mundy, a Valley Alumni and Athletic Endowment Advisory Board chair. "When we went here in '64 and '65 it was the biggest thing around to go to a game, the stands were full."

The stands on Valley's sideline filled and as the players warmed up on the field, anticipation filled the air. The line at the ticket booth moved quickly Saturday as the crowd rushed to find friends, good seats, and get out of the cold. Vendors sold sweaters, hot drinks and, of course, barbecued food to the eager Monarch fans.

With homecoming and a meaningful matchup against Pierce, the stands at Monarch Stadium, just like the old days, were full again.

ANALYZE THIS

MONARCHS SHOWED THEIR HEART

Despite losing 24-23 against Pierce College Saturday, the Monarchs showed more heart than ever.

LUCAS THOMPSON

They all stood gasping for air as the final seconds vanished from the scoreboard at Monarch Stadium Saturday night. As blank stares and tears rolled from the men who had battled the Pierce College Brahmas for 60 minutes, it was clear the shortness in breath the team displayed had not come fromfatigue...it was from sheer heartbreak

You see, to this team the Pierce game wasn't important just because it was homecoming. It wasn't a "must win" only because it meant playing in a bowl game or ringing a bell. It was important because it meant change. For once in many seasons the Monarchs were playing Pierce in a meaningful game.

Theyhad gone 5-1 in conference and it wasn't because they were the fastest or most talented team on the field week in and week out...it was because they had heart.

Valley could have given up many times this season and they certainly could have given up against Pierce. They could have called it quits in the first half, down 24-10, and every fan watching from the stands would have understood...but they didn't. They came out, despite the Brahmas quickness and ability to post points, and held them scoreless in the second half. Each time it looked as though the Brahmas were going to stick the final dagger into the hearts of the Monarchs and their fans, another hero showed on the side of the green and gold.

The team's persistence was shown by Jeremy Monegan and his two interceptions that were returned for 51 yards. It was displayed by Jake Granitz's two tackles in the backfield early in the fourth quarter that gave the Monarchs the ball and good field position. And it was defined by Dan Owen's perseverance after suffering a devastating hit while running the ball inside the Pierce five-yard line late in the first half. Over and over the Monarchs were knocked down and came back stronger on the next play.

And it was Odom ...

Travion Odom, who has been one of the most threatening weapons throughout the season, could not hang onto the ball. After his third dropped pass of the night Odom sat on the Monarch bench with his head down gathering his thoughts while his defensive counterparts forced yet another three and out in the second half. On the ensuing series from the 11-yard line down 24-17 with 5:20 remaining in the game, Odom yet again defined the Monarch season in one catch. He lined up wide left and completed a diving catch across the middle to bring his team within one.

The 24-23 loss against Pierce should not be looked at as a defeat. This team should not be rememberedas the team that almost did it; they should be remembered as the team that pointed the program in the right direction. In just two short years Fenwick took this team from hoping for wins, to competing for a bowl game...not because the talent level was that much higher, but because Fenwick instilled heart.

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CITRUS SQUEEZED THE MONARCHS

The Monarchs lost 5-0 against Citrus College in their final game of the season Friday.

IVAN ZUNIGA
ONLINE EDITOR

Enduring a tough season, the women's soccer team made a consistent effort to improve throughout. The team ends its season with a 5-0 loss against Citrus College.

"We had a good chance to score but we didn't (and) we finished the game with not one of our sophomores on the field and it ended being a five-goal game," Valley College Head Coach Shane Watkins said. "Not the best way to end a season but I guess a good invasive way to reflect the season."

Starting out rough in the beginning of the match, Valley made key errors that affected the overall performance of the Monarch offense and defense throughout the game. A red card was handed to Adriana Blanco, center forward, which was followed by a complete breakdown in defense for the Monarchs.

After losing their captain, Rose Garcia, to an injury, sophomore Yesenia Guzman also endured a thigh injury 70 minutes into the game. To make things worse for the Monarchs, toward the end of the match, goalie Stephanie Ortega took a hit to the shin which took her out for the rest of the game.

"We needed to recruit more experienced freshmen, we didn't do that this year and a lot of the sophomores that we expected come back were unsure," Watkins said. "So after four years of doing this it's coming to accept that not many girls are going to return."

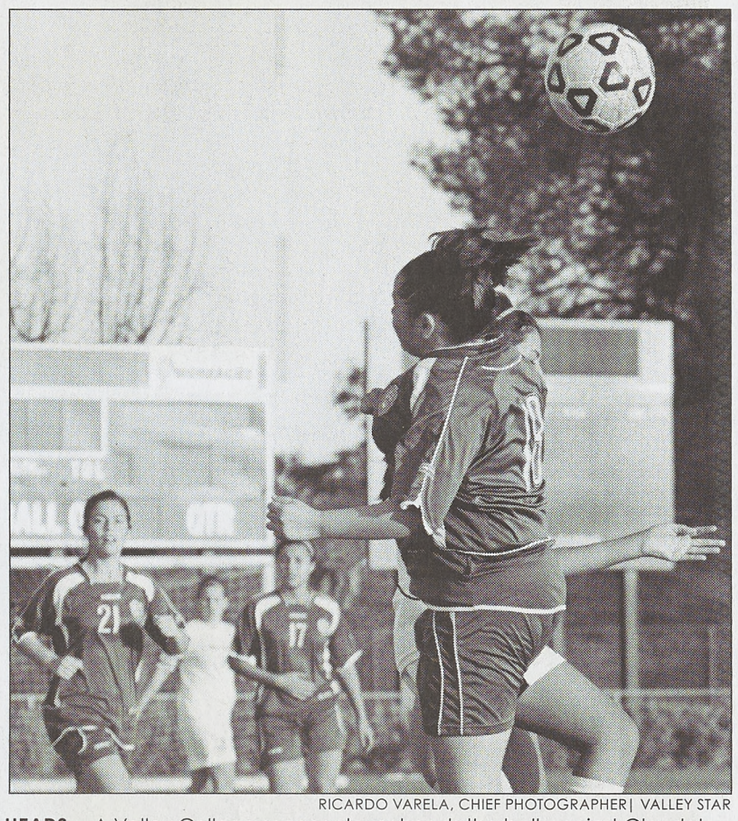
Finishing with an overall season record of 2-15-1 and a conference record of 1-12-1, the team won two games and one draw this season.

"Unfortunately we lost Thursday's game, though I must say we played our hardest. We only allowed one goal first half, until second half (when) we broke down." said Guzman. "(The) season this year, I must say, was a lesson for everyone."

Working with several inexperienced freshmen who had never played soccer before on a team, Watkins struggled to keep a reliable amount of strong players on the field.

With only a couple of players expected to return next season, Watkins will look to reframe the Monarch soccer program.

"Basically we're going to be starting from scratch," said Watkins. "I'm really excited to get the next year started because this year was not good for us."



RICARDO VARELA, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER| VALLEY STAR
HEADS - A Valley College soccer player heads the ball against Glendale.

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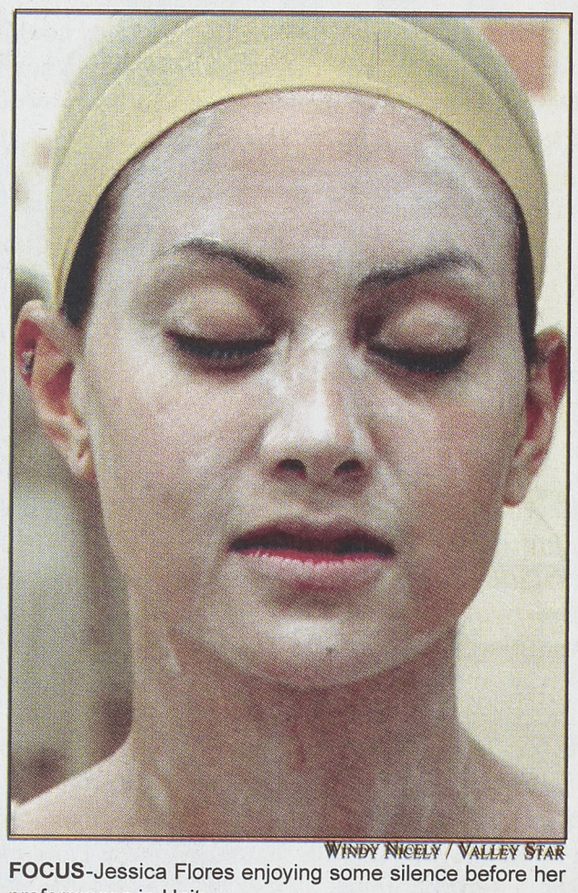
Windy Nicely / Valley Star

PREPARATION-Johnnica Hababag, Johniema Hababag, Marian Palma , Noelle Andressen-Kale, putting on make up before their preformance of Unity.



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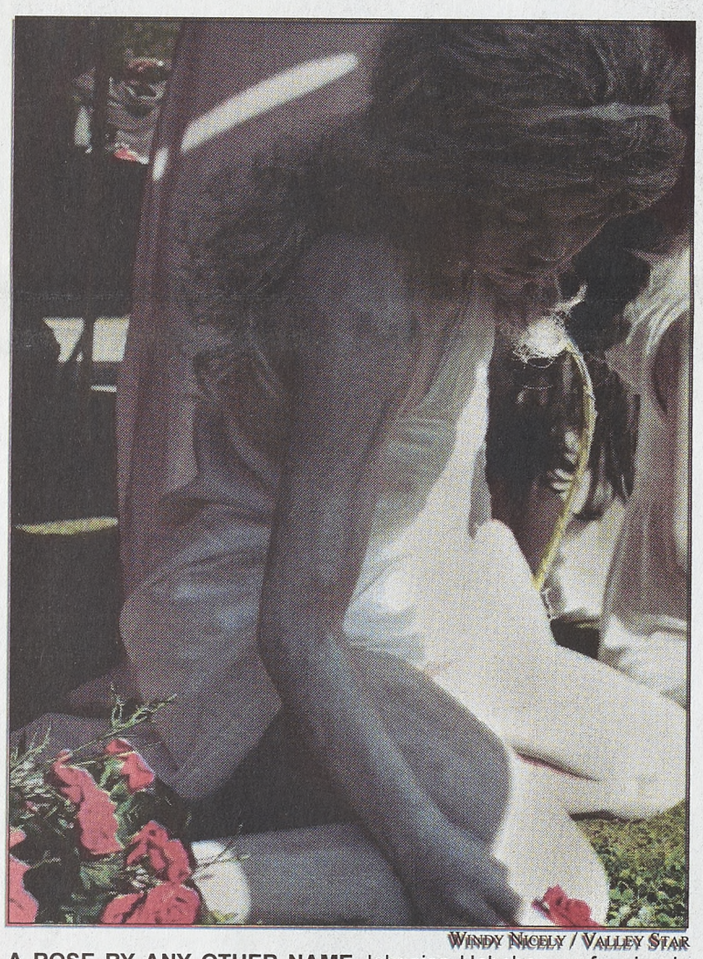
FOCUS-Jessica Flores enjoying some silence before her preformance in Unity.

Simply Statuesque



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A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME-Johnnica Hababag preforming in the dance Unity.

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MAGIC'S IN THE MAKEUP -Johniema Hababag and Johnnica Hababag putting makeup on each other before their preformance.

Windy Nicely / Valley Star

STRIKE A POSE-Noelle Andressen-Kale, Jessica Flores, Johnnica Hababag, Johniema Hababag, Adriana Daniyelyan and Azy Sinanyan preforming a dance called Unity for LAVC's club day.